

8. (New) A purified and isolated polynucleotide encoding plasma PAF-AH.
9. (New) A DNA according to claim 8.
10. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which is a cDNA or a biological replica thereof.
11. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which has the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 7 and encodes human plasma PAF-AH.
12. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which has the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 30 and encodes human plasma PAF-AH.
13. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which encodes the human PAF-AH amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 8.
14. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which encodes amino acids 42 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 8.
15. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which is a genomic DNA or a biological replica thereof.
16. (New) An RNA transcript of the genomic DNA of claim 15.
17. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which is a wholly or partially chemically synthesized DNA or a biological replica thereof.
18. (New) A full length DNA encoding PAF-AH selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a DNA having the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 7;
 - (b) a DNA which hybridizes under stringent conditions to the non-coding strand of the DNA of (a); and
 - (c) a DNA which, but for the redundancy of the genetic code, would hybridize under stringent conditions to the non-coding strand of DNA sequence of (a) or (b).
19. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which has the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 21 and encodes murine plasma PAF-AH.

20. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which has the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 22 and encodes canine plasma PAF-AH.

21. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which has the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 23 and encodes bovine plasma PAF-AH.

22. (New) The DNA of claim 9 which has the sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 24 and encodes chicken plasma PAF-AH.

23. (New) An antisense polynucleotide specific for a polynucleotide according to claim 11.

24. (New) The DNA of claim 16 further comprising an endogenous expression control DNA sequence.

25. (New) A DNA vector comprising a DNA according to claim 9.

26. (New) The vector of claim 25 wherein said DNA is operatively linked to an expression control DNA sequence.

27. (New) A host cell stably transformed or transfected with a DNA according to claim 9 in a manner allowing the expression in said host cell of PAF-AH or a variant thereof possessing an enzymatic activity or immunological property specific to PAF-AH.

28. (New) A method for producing PAF-AH, said method comprising growing a host cell according to claim 27 in a suitable nutrient medium and isolating PAF-AH or variant thereof from said cell or the medium of its growth.

29. (New) A purified and isolated PAF-AH polypeptide consisting essentially of the human plasma PAF-AH amino acid sequence set out in SEQ ID NO: 8.

30. (New) A purified and isolated PAF-AH polypeptide consisting essentially of amino acids 42 to 441 of SEQ ID NO: 8.

31. (New) A monoclonal antibody specific for PAF-AH.

32. (New) The monoclonal antibody produced by hybridoma 90G11D (ATCC HB 11724).

33. (New) The monoclonal antibody produced by hybridoma 90F2D (ATCC HB 11725).

34. (New) The monoclonal antibody produced by hybridoma 143A (ATCC HB 11900).

35. (New) A hybridoma cell line producing a monoclonal antibody according to claim 31.

36. (New) The hybridoma cell line 90G11D (ATCC HB 11724).

37. (New) The hybridoma cell line 90F2D (ATCC HB 11725).

38. (New) The hybridoma cell line 143A (ATCC HB 11900).

39. (New) A humanized antibody substance according to claim 31.

40. (New) A method for detecting PAF-AH enzyme in serum comprising the step of contacting serum with PAF-AH-specific monoclonal antibody or antibodies and quantifying the amount of PAF-AH enzyme bound by said antibody or antibodies.

41. (New) A method for detecting a genetic lesion in the human PAF-AH gene resulting in a substitution of a phenylalanine residue for a valine residue at amino acid 279 of the human plasma PAF-AH enzyme comprising using restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis to differentiate between wild type and mutant alleles.

42. (New) A PAF-AH fragment or variant.